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LB 505, 683

what number you can live with, something that has...that starts with a two and is higher, I'm available and I'm well-positioned to offer that as an amendment on the floor and to revive LB 505 yet this session if we need expanded cigarette tax specifically for cancer research. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Brown, you're recognized to speak next.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, I would yield my time to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members. I will tell you what I would like to do and I will offer this to Senator Thompson. I sense a lot of unease and uncertainty about the body not only in the cigarette tax alone but whether to fund it, and I myself am uncomfortable with only a concept at this point. So it's clear, a 3-cent cigarette tax for 3 years is \$9.9 million, is what you're roughly committing to this concept if you would pass Senator Thompson's amendment...I mean Senator Thompson's amendment with Senator Hilgert's amendment. That's what the three-cent per year cigarette tax out of the General Fund would...it's still a cost to the General Fund; it's just dedicated different. That's the first issue. The other issue then is the cigarette tax increase, which I'm getting quite a bit of feedback on that at this point. Perhaps they'd rather go Senator Landis' way in a different mode of discussion. But, most of all, I'm uncomfortable at this point selling a concept that, in all due respect to the task force and Senator Thompson, I think you have a need, as you've established the need, but I, in my own mind, the solution isn't established. And I will be very willing to accept, if not on this bill, because it may not be appropriate without a cigarette tax, but at least a study plan of or a determination to locate a facility for this reason, or whatever, so that next session can come back and go through the construction, the program, something beyond a concept to present to the body for further need. Because I don't think we can establish that much beyond a concept here on the floor the rest of this session. I understand there were some bills in Judiciary. I do not know whether Judiciary's Committee has